

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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GRUBB: DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BILL CHANGED FOR BETTER

INDIANAPOLIS – House members today agreed to changes offered by State Rep. F. Dale Grubb (D-Covington) that would allow local units of government to opt out of observing daylight-saving time and delay the start of the time shift in Indiana.

The amendments were made to Senate Bill 127, which would have required most of Indiana to go on daylight-saving time on June 5. The measure is now eligible for final consideration in the House.

Thanks to Grubb's work, the change to daylight-saving time would not take effect until next spring if the bill becomes law.

In addition, counties in the Eastern Time Zone that are located next to areas that are in the Central Time Zone will receive the Legislature's blessing to either shift to a new zone or be exempt from daylight-saving time.

"Going to daylight-saving time represents a considerable change in the lives of many families across Indiana," Grubb said. "It will impact everything from work schedules to the time parents are able to spend with their children.

"By delaying the start of daylight-saving time until 2006 for those 77 counties across Indiana that are currently in the Eastern Time Zone, we can give officials the proper amount of time to gauge the potential impact of the move," he added.

Another section of the bill asks the governor to petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct statewide hearings on whether Indiana should move to the Central Time Zone.

"County officials know the impact that this can have in their areas, so I want to make sure they have every chance to determine if daylight-saving time is right for them," Grubb said. "To that end, commissioners from counties that are located next to either another state or another county that is in another time zone will have the chance to pass a resolution exempting them from observing daylight-saving time.

"In addition, if officials in a county determine that they want to petition the federal government to change time zones, they will have the support of the Legislature," he noted.

Grubb said the other sections of his amendment provide for a way for local officials to act on public input.

"Through hearings at the local level, we will be able to determine if the public feels that Indiana should be in the Eastern or the Central Time Zone," Grubb said. "I know the people I represent in the 42nd House District want to go to Central Time all year if they must observe daylight-saving time, and from talking to other legislators on both sides of the aisle, I believe many of their constituents feel the same way.

"These are changes that will provide the least amount of disruption for families and workers, and allow them to remain on the same time as those areas where they live and work," he added. "If we must adopt daylight-saving time, this is the best possible solution for most of Indiana."

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H42